

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT L 00741 040853Z

12

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAM-01 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /171 W

----- 017442

R 031040Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4763

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0741

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PARM UN XO MP

SUBJECT: GOM POSITION ON DIEGO GARCIA

REF: A) PORT LOUIS 0737; B) USUN 29749

1. WHILE SEEING OFF PRIMIN RAMGOOLAM AT AIRPORT AUGUST 31, I ASKED HIM ABOUT HIS CURRENT ATTITUDE ON DIEGO AS FOLLOW UP TO CLARIFICATION I HAD SOUGHT VIA BURRENCHOBAY (COVERED REFTEL A) RAM'S ONLY RESPONSE WAS "YOU REALLY SHOULD NOT BUILD THAT BASE THERE", PRESUMABLY REFERRING ONLY TO OUR PROPOSED EXPANSION.

2. THIS MORNING UK HIGH COMMISSIONER BRIND INFORMED ME
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT L 00741 040853Z

HE HAD JUST RECEIVED CABLE FOR LONDON ESSENTIALLY AS FOLLOWS:

GOM HIGH COMMISSIONER TEELOCK CALLED ON ENNALS AUG 30 ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM RAMGOOLAM TO DRAW ATTENTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S AUGUST 28 PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH PRESIDENT SAID US WOULD PRESS ON WITH EXPANSION OF DIEGO. TEELOCK, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, SAID THAT EXPANSION "HOWEVER LIMITED" COULD BE VERY EMBARRASING TO GOM AND A CAUSE OF TENSION IN AREA. TEELOCK REQUESTED THAT COMMONWEALTH INCLUDING AUSTRALIA SHOULD BE CONSULTED "TOGETHER WITH MALAGASY REPUBLIC" BEFORE UK TOOK DECISION ON MATTER. ENNALS REPLIED THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN UK POSITION AND UK HAD NOT YET REACHED DECISION ON MATTER, WHICH WAS RELATED TO DEFENSE REVIEW, AND DEFENSE REVIEW WOULD NOT BE FINISHED UNTIL LATER THIS YEAR. THIS REPORT HAS ALREADY BEEN PASSED BY UK FOREIGN OFFICE TO BRITISH EMBASSY WASHINGTON.

3. BRIND TOLD ME THAT RAMGOOMAL WANTED TO CALL ON FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN IN LONDON ON RAM'S CURRENT TRIP, POSSIBLY IN CONNECTION WITH DIEGO. BRIND TOLD RAM THAT CALLAGHAN WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE, BUT NEVERTHELESS ASSUMED RAM MIGHT SEEK MEETING WITH SOMEONE ELSE IN UK FOREIGN OFFICE.

4. ALTHOUGH RAM HAS NOT YET SEEN FIT TO TELL ME WHAT HE IS REALLY UP TO ON DIEGO (NOR APPARENTLY EVEN CONFIDE IN HIS OWN IMMEDIATE STAFF) I CANNOT BUT CONCLUDE AT THIS STAGE THAT HE HAS SHIFTED HIS POSITION TO MORE ACTIVE THAN PASSIVE OPPOSITION TO OUR DIEGO EXPANSION. JUDGING FROM RECENT THRUSTS IN PRAVDA AGAINST OUR PLANS FOR DIEGO AND RAM'S COMMENTS TO ME LAST APRIL THAT HE WAS UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM DELHI TO OPPOSE US ON DIEGO, I THINK WE SHOULD ASSUME THAT (A) BOTH MOSCOW AND DELHI ARE EXERTING FURTHER PRESSURE ON GOM, USING PRESIDENT FORD'S RECENT STATEMENTS TO PRESS AS A PEG AND (B) RAM AT LEAST ACQUIESCED IN AUGUST 23 UN DE-COLONIZATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT (REF B). PERHAPS HE HOPES TO USE THAT REPORT AS JUSTIFICATION TO RAISE DIFFICULTIES FOR US AND UK ON DIEGO AND MAKE SOME BROWNIE POINTS WITH NON-ALIGNED PARTICULARLY IN THIS AREA.

5. RAM'S INITIATIVE TO COORDINATE ON DIEGO WITH MALAGASY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT L 00741 040853Z

REPURLIC IS DISTURBING BECAUSE HERETOFORE GOM POSITION ON DIEGO HAS BEEN MUCH Milder THAN THAT OF MADAGASCAR. AGAINST BACKGROUND OF ALMOST DORMANT AND UNHAPPY GOM-MADAGASCAR RELATIONS FOR SOME TIME, PRESS HERE HAS RECENTLY REPORTED THAT GOM HAS INVITED PRESIDENT RAMANANTSOA TO VISIT MAURITIUS SOMETIME IN NOVEMBER. IN VIEW OF LATEST GOM MANEUVERS RAMANANTSOA'S VISIT MIGHT RESULT IN SOME SORT OF JOINT STATEMENT AGAINST OUR PLANS FOR

DIEGO AMONG OTHER THINGS.

6. IOPZ AND DIEGO ARE ON AGENDA FOR COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTARY MEETING STARTING TODAY IN COLOMBO. I
SUSPECT THAT GOM MAY BE LOOKING FOR FURTHER JUSTIFICATION
FROM COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES AT THAT CONFERENCE TO OPPOSE
OUR DIEGO EXPANSION PLANS.

7. RAM IS EXPECTED TO RETURN FROM HIS LATEST JUNKET TO
LONDON AND STRASBOURG AT END OF THIS WEEK. I PLAN TO GO
OVER THIS WHOLE QUESTION WITH HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER.
ONE POINT I THINK SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED TO HIM IS THAT
SOVIETS HAVE THREE BASES IN AREA WHEREAS WE HAVE ONLY
ONE AND A HALF. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO ME TO BE PROVIDED
WITH SOME ADDITIONAL AMMUNITION, PARTICULARLY AS MANY
SPECIFICS AS POSSIBLE ON NATURE AND EXTENT OF SOVIET
BASES IN BERBERA, UMM QASR AND ADEN, ON CLASSIFIED BASICS
IF NECESSARY.
MANHARD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASES, COMMITTEES, DIEGO GARCIA, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PORTL00741
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740244-0676
From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740979/aaaacoxg.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) PORT LOUIS 0737; B) USUN 29749
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOM POSITION ON DIEGO GARCIA
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, XO, MP, UK, US, UN, (RAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005